[English]

Child Labour in Hazardous Occupations

1553. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to ban child labour below the age of ten in hazardous occupations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate those children who may be unemployed as a result of such an amendment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to ban child labour below the age of ten in hazardous occupations as, the employment of children below the age of 14 years is already banned in factories, mines and in various hazardous occupations. Apart from stricter enforcement of laws pertaining to child labour, other steps being undertaken include, inter alia, projects for rehabilitation in areas of high concentration of child labour through establishment of special programme for education, nutrition, health care, vocational training, etc.

Cutting of Jungles

1554. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to stop auction for cutting of jungles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State has stopped cutting forests in the past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy of 1988 does not provide for total ban on cutting of trees. However, it envisages that no forest should be permitted to be worked without the Government having approved the management plan and that derivation of direct economic benefit from the forests should be subordinated to the importance of forests for environmental stability and ecological balance.

(c) Government are not aware of any state having totally banned tree felling in all its forest areas.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement of Civic Amenities in Delhi

1555. SHRI B. L. SHARMA 'PREM': Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated and actually utilised during the last three years of the Seventh Five Years Plan for improvement of civic amenities in Delhi as a whole and in East Delhi, in particular;

(b) whether the share of East Delhi has been too low; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time bound programme for improvement of civic amenities in East Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.